18. Rs. 19,700 under "7—Excise—Refunds"

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Joint Secretary to Government):* On behalf of the Excise Commissioner I beg to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 19,700 under "7—Excise—Refunds". This amount is required on account of the fact that we have to make certain refunds to various parties brought about by various reasons, and these reasons have been explained in the note circulated among the members of the Standing Finance Committee. I request that the House may be pleased to sanction this amount.

Demand put and carried

19. Rs. 81,741 under "11—Forests and Tramway (1) Forests A—1—(b)"

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* Sir, I rise to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 81,741 under "11—Forests and Tramway (1) Forests A—1—(B)".

The necessity for this allotment has been explained in the note to the Standing Finance Committee. I may add for the information of the House that the corresponding net surplus over the original budget estimates on account of this additional expenditure is expected to be about a lakh of rupees.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May I know, Sir, whether these wind-fallen and top-broken trees in the Forest can be got removed by the Contractors.

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* It is far more profitable to remove them departmentally.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* Could it not be sold and the same revenue realised ?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* By spending this additional Rs. 81,000 the additional net income is expected to be over a lakh of rupees.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* That is the present estimate?

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* We expect the estimate to be correct.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* We have had discussions here showing teak wood trees fetching only Re. 1 per candy. I only want to sound a note of caution. If it is possible to sell and get this one lakh that policy should be adopted. If the Conservator and the Government are fully satisfied that they must spend this money, of course I will say "Yes" at the time of voting. Before spending this money please see whether you can realise the money

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by sale. If that is possible that policy should be adopted. Of course, the Government must decide for themselves.

Mr. President : The Government will get a large profit.

Demand put and carried

20. Rs. 13,441 under "11—Forests and Tramway—2. Tramway"

Mr. T. Narayana Menon *(Conservator of Forests):* Sir, I rise to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 13,441 under "11-Forests and Tramway—2—Tramway".

Demand put and carried

TOKEN MOTION

Supplementary demand of Rs. 100 under "28—A—Civil Engineering"

Mr. President : I request the indulgence of the House to permit me to make a few remarks.

The question of providing a western outlet through Cochin for the rich Anamalais planting district and at the same time open up forest areas in this State suitable for plantation or cultivation has engaged the attention of Government for some time. The question was taken up for investigation so far back as 1916 by Diwan Sir Joseph Bhore. This was before the days of the extensive use of motor transport and the proposal then was to extend the tramway. This scheme and other connected schemes were very costly and were dropped. With the opening of Cochin Harbour, the desirability of establishing direct communication with the Anamalais became obvious and the question was taken up again at the instance of the Harbour Engineer-in-Chief. With the development of Motor transport, a road was preferable to tramway extension, as it was cheaper, opened up more fresh country and provided a more rapid and complete means of transport. A survey was carried out and an estimate prepared for a road connecting Chalakkudi with the Anamalai Road system in Malakiparai Estate. My predecessor entered into negotiations with the planters but as they were unable to bind their respective companies to give the guarantee demanded, the negotiations, fell through.

A further examination of the scheme at the request of the planters after I took charge showed that the State stood to gain so substantially from the construction of the road, that it was decided to reopen negotiations. On this occasion, negotiations were carried

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